

28 May 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: National Reconnaissance Office
(Meeting between Dr. Charyk and Dr. Scoville
and respective Staffs 22-23 May 1962)

PARTICIPANTS: DOD CIA
 Dr. Joseph V. Charyk Dr. Herbert Scoville
 Gen. Robert Greer Col. Stanley Beerli
 Gen. Richard Curtin Mr. Eugene Kiefer
 [redacted] Mr. George Miller
 Col. Leo Geary [redacted]

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Set forth below is a summary of the notes taken by the writer during this conference:

1. Dr. Charyk opened the conference by suggesting that probably the best approach would be to cover the 25 April 1962 agreement between the Secretary of Defense and the DCI on the responsibilities of the NRO paragraph by paragraph. This approach was followed.

Requirements and Priorities:

The question was raised by Dr. Scoville with regard to the NRO relationship to peripheral flights currently being run by the Air Force. It was agreed that the D/NRO should be kept aware of the extent of these flights and possibly be enabled to concur in the scheduling of such flights in advance. This will require discussions with JRC and other Air Force elements.

With regard to the authority of the NRO in the SIGINT collection requirements, considerable discussion ensued. Mention was made of the fact that NSA under NSCID-6 has responsibility for all SIGINT collection. It was suggested that the matter could be raised with USIB or McGeorge Bundy. George Miller pointed out

NRO review completed

ARMY and NSA review(s) completed.

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that it is quite clear that the DOD is the Executive Agent for SIGINT collection, and this responsibility has been delegated by the Secretary of Defense to NSA. He suggested that this delegation could be withdrawn by the Secretary of Defense and, instead, delegated to NRO. It was agreed in any event that a full-time NSA man should be a part of the NRO team.

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Discussion ensued with regard to the product of mapping satellites and the present difference of opinion between NRO and the Department of Army. The question was raised also as to the position of DIA in this area. It was mentioned that long-range planning calls for AMS and ACIC to end up in the DIA. It was indicated that Dr. Charyk's office would take action to clarify the position of the NRO with regard to processing of the mapping product.

With regard to the establishment of priorities and the collection of requirements, the question was raised by Dr. Charyk as to whether the COMOR was qualified to handle requirements for ELINT and mapping as well as photographic product. Dr. Scoville mentioned that possibly the SIGINT requirements could better be handled by the USIB/SIGINT Subcommittee. It was concluded that this is a USIB problem, and USIB should decide which committee can best handle these matters.

Management:

With regard to ARGON, it was mentioned that Harold Brown had okayed the establishment of an Army processing facility, and Dr. Charyk indicated that he will have to communicate with Harold Brown in this regard, possibly looking forward to the elimination of such a facility under the Army.

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Considerable discussion ensued with regard to the definition of the phrase "Executive Agent." It was concluded that he is, in effect, the same as Program Director. It was mentioned that the Director of NRO will delegate broad responsibility to each Program Director (or Executive Agent) concerning development and operations. The Program Director is, in turn, responsive to the D/NRO.

With regard to programs for which Dr. Charyk is designated Executive Agent, Dr. Charyk mentioned that the DOD elements will provide support. At this point, Leo Geary suggested that instead of concerning ourselves with availability of slots, that the Air Force just make available necessary people to the Agency without requiring that they occupy Agency slots. From the security standpoint, Mr. [redacted] pointed out that such Air Force people could meet all CIA security requirements except that it has been the Agency policy not to require a polygraph interview of such individuals unless they were actually assigned to CIA.

With regard to the makeup of the NRO team, it was indicated that various agencies would participate: Air Force, CIA, NSA, Navy, etc. The NRO would concern itself with overall planning, monitoring, budgeting, and scheduling. Day-to-day operational decisions would be made by the Program Directors who would be designated by the ERP. Major decisions requiring commitment of substantial funds would require the prior concurrence of D/NRO.

Considerable discussion followed pertaining to the location of the NRO, and it was agreed that the immediate staff would probably best be located in proximity to Dr. Charyk's office. This would not preclude, however, the location certain "Committees" of the NRO at other locations. Dr. Charyk raised the question of availability of computers and control rooms where appropriate displays could be maintained. It was mentioned by General Curtis that at the present time in the satellite field there is one at Sunnyvale and in the DPD. It was generally agreed that the computer installations would probably be most effectively located on the West Coast, and the question of

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the location of a Washington Control Center was more or less left open. Dr. Charyk suggested, however, that Colonel Beerli and General Greer get together on this matter of control centers.

Mention was made of the [redacted] and Dr. Charyk observed that it will be essential that the Program Director to be designated to that Project must report directly to D/NRO since it would be utterly ineffective to require [redacted] channels in order to communicate with the D/NRO.

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The question was raised with regard to Harold Brown's relationship to NRO, and it was mentioned that he has a statutory responsibility for R&D in the Defense establishment, and Dr. Charyk observed that he intends to keep Mr. Brown informed along with a couple of members of his staff. He stated, however, not "every Indian" in Harold Brown's office should be briefed.

Financial Management:

It was indicated that the NRO will fund the ERP. Various methods of effecting the funding were discussed, and it boiled down that the NRO will approve the total ERP budget, and in one manner or another the funds will be made available to the Executive Agents.

With regard to contracting, it was indicated that covert contracts would be done by the Agency, and the black contracts already negotiated by Greer should be transferred to an Agency Contracting Officer. It was mentioned that Greer will need Agency contract support in Los Angeles to handle these contracts. It was emphasised that it will be necessary for the Agency to clear this matter with the CIA General Counsel. Greer also mentioned that he would like to have a Security support officer of CIA stationed in [redacted]. He commented favorably on [redacted] for that spot.

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Security:

Dr. Charyk observed that the NRO has no responsibility for security, since the agreement clearly indicates that the DCI will establish security policy for the ERP. The writer made reference to a meeting held between the Director of Security and Dr. Scoville, 22 May, wherein the Director of Security had indicated that he is establishing a Security Policy Staff to address itself to this responsibility. Colonel Beerli raised the specific point with Dr. Charyk as to whether CIA, therefore, can direct General Greer with regard to security policy. Dr. Charyk immediately replied in the affirmative. Dr. Charyk mentioned that if, of course, the D/NRO takes exception to such policy appropriated by the CIA, he, in turn, has the right to go to the DCI and voice his exception. Dr. Charyk also pointed out that he expects to get direct communication from Dr. Scoville in this regard, since the last paragraph of the agreement clearly indicates that the DD/R will be responsible for seeing that the participation of CIA in this Agreement is carried out.

The writer also mentioned that a uniform system of security control, [redacted] is already in existence and, as in all matters covered under security, the implementation of the responsibility of CIA in this area must, of necessity, be gradually assumed. Dr. Charyk indicated that he would like, however, for the Agency to check out Bob Greer's operation and give it a preliminary blessing from the security standpoint.

The writer raised the question as to the classification of the NRO as Top Secret. It was uniformly agreed that this is ~~unsecre~~ unrealistic, and the existence of the office should be treated as "garden variety" Secret. Details pertaining to the structure, missions, participants, etc., would, however, probably require a higher security classification.

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Operations:

Anything going to the Special Group pertaining to the National Reconnaissance Program, it was agreed, should be routed through the D/NRO.

Mention was made that MIDAS will probably not fall within NRO cognisance.

Colonel Geary strongly urged that [redacted] operation stay with NRO.

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Dr. Charyk re-emphasized that the D/NRO has responsibility for initial processing. He again emphasized necessity for interaction between collection and processing people: hence, NPIC, NSA, and mapping consumers must be afforded the opportunity to have close current communication with NRO.

Each Executive Agent will be responsible for the development of necessary cover stories, with the implementation of such cover stories throughout Government being effected through the D/NRO. The Agency will inject security guidance with regard to those proposed public releases of information.

Miscellaneous:

With regard to the nature of the Office of the NRO, it was mentioned that further work would have to be done with regard to the desired size. Colonel Beerli mentioned that very prompt attention should be given to the planning function. With regard to each program, it was agreed that a charter should be prepared for the NRO Staff similar to the LANYARD charter.

Considerable discussion ensued as to whether there should be a Deputy to the D/NRO, and Dr. Charyk observed he didn't think that, under the present concept, there would be enough to keep him busy. Dr. Charyk observed that each Program Director, of course,

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could carry on on his own in the absence of the D/NRO. However, after further discussion, it was recognized that in the event of any absence of Dr. Charyk, someone should be appointed Acting D/NRO. It appeared to be left that that is the procedure that Dr. Charyk will employ.

It was made clear that officers assigned from the various services to the NRO would not be responsive directly to their parent service or Agency, but to the D/NRO.

The matter of communications was mentioned, and it was agreed that for the time being, the electrical communication now in existence is satisfactory.

Mention was made of the Special Activities Office recently established in the DIA which will work closely with the NRO, particularly with regard to recommendations as to who should be cleared in the three services.

2. Dr. Charyk tossed the ball to General Curtin to prepare the necessary communications essential for the implementation of the NRO.



Chief, Security Branch
DPD

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